

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

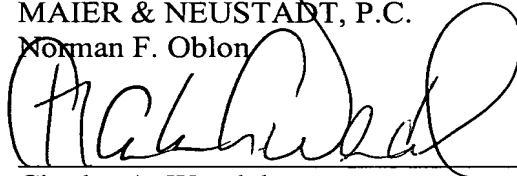
The claims have been changed to eliminate multiple dependencies and to place the claims in more conventional U.S. format.

An early examination of Claims 1-27 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Norman F. Oblon

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles A. Wendel', is written over a horizontal line.

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(OSMMN 03/06)

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